

3 May 1973

Mr. David A. Weating
1119 Haverston Road
Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124

Dear Mr. Weating:

The Department of Justice has just sent me a copy of your letter of March 25th to the National Security Council concerning the information you want in connection with your research paper on espionage and counterespionage. This is a very ambitious project on a very complex subject. Just to suggest some of the complications, I refer to your numbered queries.

1. Information is gathered in a remarkable variety of ways, some of them as simple as reading foreign newspapers and some of them through complicated technical operations, such as U-2 photography.
2. Its importance can be critical, such as information on Russian ICBMs or the placing of offensive missiles in Cuba by the Russians.
3. As noted above, the methods employed vary from most routine to very complex.
4. Some information is procured almost instantaneously, such as the intercept of foreign broadcasts. In other cases the process may be very time consuming.


5. Defected agents are not of particular interest unless they have some really important information, and in some cases, such as Penkovskiy, the information may be of the highest interest.

6. The primary action taken by the National Security Council is to issue the directives which govern all the activities of this Agency and the U. S. intelligence community.

I enclose a packet of information which gives some description of this Agency and its function, and I also enclose a short bibliography. Most of the books listed therein can be found in the average public library. In addition to those listed, you may want to try to get The Penkovskiy Papers by Oleg Penkovskiy, New York, Doubleday & Company, 1965, and a recent book on overhead reconnaissance called Spies in the Sky by John W. R. Taylor and David Mondey, London, Ian Allan, 1972.

I trust this material will be helpful to you in your effort. STATINTL

Sincerely,



Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

Enclosures

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